Natural Selection & Leaderless Resistance

An analysis of insurgent operations.

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SEP 10, 2024

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For newer subscribers that are unaware, I come from a background in the military & counterterrorism. This is all in a post-GWOT era, so I won't glorify my otherwise limited experience as my first overseas deployment will be happening in a few months. If I learn anything relevant over there, I'll let you guys know. Regardless, I do feel I have gotten good opportunities to study insurgencies, their tactics, etc. My previous experience in the Atomwaffen Division also helped, specifically by putting me on both sides of the hypothetical war. I generally focus on more ideological matters on here, as to not get banned, but this is absolutely a fedpost.

To start out, you likely vastly overestimate how difficult it is for a militant group to be successful. There's a common pop culture notion of insurgency groups being highly organized & meticulously led. This is not true, not for really any group until very late stages of conflict. Let's look at a few examples.

Firstly, Iraq. Operation Iraqi Freedom I began in 2003 & essentially ended that year. As we all remember, it was massive military success that wiped out a relatively powerful country in a matter of weeks. Fun fact, it was also the furthest inland the USMC has ever fought. Obviously, the success of OIF I isn't the point of this article. OIF II is what we're looking at, otherwise known as the “insurgency phase” of the Iraq War that lasted from Summer 2003 to the defeat of Daesh around 2020 (this timeframe includes Operation Inherent Resolve, AKA the war against the Islamic State).

It's important to note that the war in Iraq was not initially a part of the GWOT. Even at the start of the insurgency phase, Al-Qaeda Iraq (AQI) was a very minor force in the region. Rather, the insurgency of 2003-04 was mostly made up of Fadayeen, Republican Guard, and other Iraqis that held loyalty to the Baathist government. The battle of Fallujah was the turning point here. After the first battle (Operation Vigilant Resolve), the subsequent reinforcements were overwhelming Jihadists aligned with AQ. Not all were formally part of AQI, but most Jihadists were loyal to Osama. The second battle of Fallujah (Operation Phantom Fury) in Autumn of 2004 was the first major engagement against predominantly Jihadi forces. From that point, there was a major distinction between political or racial groups & Jihadis, and the Coalition would gradually broker peace deals with the former in order to focus on the targets of the GWOT. Most of the non-Jihadi factions actually ended up brokering peace deals with the Iraqi government & US military, either taking spots in the Iraqi government or becoming legitimately recognized as the local government of their territory. Their fighters basically turned into the local police & military forces. In other words, they won.

But that's not the point. What we're going to look at is how these insurgents operated, especially in the infamous Sunni Triangle where there were hundreds of thousands of Coalition forces that were of fantastic quality & strength. Firstly, almost none of these groups were actually organized in any way. There were a few exceptions to this, such as the localized Mahdi Army in Najaf, but for the most part a group like AQI would have no actual control over any of it's forces. Most of these forces would operate as cells, generally 5-10 members. These members were generally fairly close geographically, typically living in the same village or neighborhood. They also didn't interact with each other often. There were local leaders, who usually rose up organically based on their own experiences & leadership traits, who would maintain some communication with each cell in the local area.

Its through these leaders that multicellular operations were organized, which could include 50 to 150 fighters for major operations. For some particularly significant operations, cells would travel purely based on word of mouth & link up with other cells based on previous relationships (like cousins or internet friends). Examples include the battles of Fallujah, Mosul, & Ramadi. As well, these major events serve as essentially networking conventions for fighters who otherwise wouldn't know how to join the network.

These cells would constantly refine themselves, making it increasingly difficult to effectively combat them. In things like warfare, especially if we're talking about the wrong side of asymmetric warfare, mistakes are usually punished immediately & lethally. This means two things. Firstly, groups that have a good mode of operandi will survive & propagate their tactics, while groups with more tactics eventually go extinct. Secondly, there exists a sort of lifeboat effect. Survivors of destroyed groups will join other groups & share their experience to avoid making the same mistake. This is the real reason why totally destroying insurgents is extremely difficult, you can only really kill off the weakest links which eventually makes the movement stronger as a whole.

The Taliban were a similar story, after the fall of their government during Operation Jawbreaker. The vast majority of the Taliban had virtually no connection to their supposed leaders or the Haqqini network. Instead, most militant groups were just the locals who decided the Taliban was more in their interests than the ANA. Operation Red Wings (made into the movie Lone Survivor) wasn't even against a Taliban unit, just locals. Same story with the Korangal Valley, nicknamed the Valley of Death by the US Army. Basically none of the fighters were actually Taliban, it was merely the local clan. The difference is often referred to as the “Big T Taliban” & “Little T taliban” within the military. I put less emphasis on the Afghan theater here because Afghanistan is rather uniquely tribal & behind the times.

Obviously, this sort of decentralization is not maintainable forever, except purely in situations of combating an invading force where the old government would assume control afterwards. For this part, we'll look at the Islamic State. IS existed in minor forms since 1999, but came to prominence as an AQI affiliated group during the Iraq War. In 2011, USNDEVGRU would conduct Operation Neptune Spear, culminating in the assassination of OBL & the collection of massive amounts of intelligence on the higher levels of AQs operations. By about 2013, this intelligence led to AQ being almost completely eliminated as a global threat, leaving behind only localized splinter groups like Al-Nusra. In the wake of this, IS would seize the opportunity to take the reins of global jihad. One of the first operations IS conducted, organized via a much less moderated & surveilled internet, was an impressive jailbreak of prisons in Taji & Abu Gharib. This operation took basically all of the manpower & resources the group could muster at the time, but the outcome was quite remarkable. About 500 senior jihadis, veterans of the Iraq War, were released & now a part of IS. This also got a lot of attention in the jihadi community online & made IS the group to join if you were an international jihadi. The Islamic State would carry out a massive guerilla war against the Iraqis (now absent of significant US assistance) before gaining a significant amount of territory.

Upon the seizure of this territory, IS would gradually shift into more conventional matters of government. They began making the local population citizens & subjects of this new government, and the people who were previously insurgent bands would become uniformed military personnel with support, armor, etc. For all intents & purposes, the Islamic State was very real for several years until the combined forces of basically every government in the world took them out - although they still control sizable territory in Africa by way of Boko Haram. The methods were simple, the cells became squads & those regional leaders became officers. There were surely some growing pains, but it's pretty simple.

Now, obviously I'm not a Jihadi. I hope none of my readership is either. So how does this translate to a NatSoc or White Nationalist movement?

Firstly, the actions of these groups (specifically AQ) directly influenced groups like Atomwaffen Division. Mainly through members that were veterans of the GWOT, and also through research as it became fairly obvious that there was no peaceful way out of this. As AWD got the hammer brought down by the FBI, the movement shifted towards Terrorgram & generally mirrored the actions IS used to spread their propaganda & instructions.

The reason I say this is that you probably won't know when the war starts, just like you never heard of IS until they controlled half of Syria & a quarter of Iraq. Underground movements are underground for a reason. Any collapse or civil war type scenario will likely look like the Iraqi insurgency. Small cells of people who follow the same ideology working their local area. Depending on the size & location, these groups may work to take control over the region. Otherwise it may just be making sure our enemies, government or otherwise, don't take power. Eventually, one of these elements will find a sweet spot & start taking control over actual land, which will cause the supporters in areas that are too far gone to migrate & create a main body force. From that point, efforts will shift towards protecting & expanding our territory, while those outside will wage a war of attrition to distract & denigrate the System. For those who aren't aware, this is why IS encouraged terrorist attacks in Russia & the US.

Contrary to popular belief, the militant NatSoc community is rather well connected. Maybe too connected. We don't need a big groupchat with every NatSoc in the country in it, what matters is that there's NatSocs capable of spreading propaganda & instructions over apps like Telegram & Signal. The working class of the insurgency will not, and should not, be posting online or have any recognizable symbols/names. They simply need to have a solid grasp of what they're fighting for & be in a few Telegram channels to get info & instructions.

I should point out that the members of AWD, The Base, etc. never actually went away. Basically all of them are still active, we just learned to shut the fuck up & not talk about it outside the members of our cells. The Hard Reset, which focuses on teaching people to act as lone wolves or small cells, is the main document right now - written & published completely anonymously via pdfs that get sent to those who are interested. Those in the know will often recognize the seemingly random attacks on substations & such. Remember, for every accelerationist with an internet presence there are 1,000 others shrouded in complete anonymity.

My only call to action in this article is to form your own cell & get into the NS channels on apps like TG. No one is coming, it's up to you. A previous article, titled “Offensive Insurgency,” contains a section of the Atombuch which teaches how to form a cell. The Hard Reset is also a fantastic resource that was written by very experienced people. Whether you want to get active in politics or not is irrelevant, you should be prepared for war regardless.

The golden age will come again, but only if you're willing to do what it takes.

Hail Victory

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DerWaldgang Sep 14

Interesting theory. If I understand it correctly, messenger apps will play a role. I doubt there will be any messengers left other than those committing to 💯 surveillance and transparency, when shtf. By that time, it is too late to organize.

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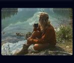

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